

IT'S HERE!

The wildebeests have now entered the Mara! This has been confirmed today (3rd July) after a fact finding mission round the entry points along the Mara and Serengeti border. Though this is still in its' initial stages, every indication shows that the stage is set for the world's most fascinating wildlife spectacle.

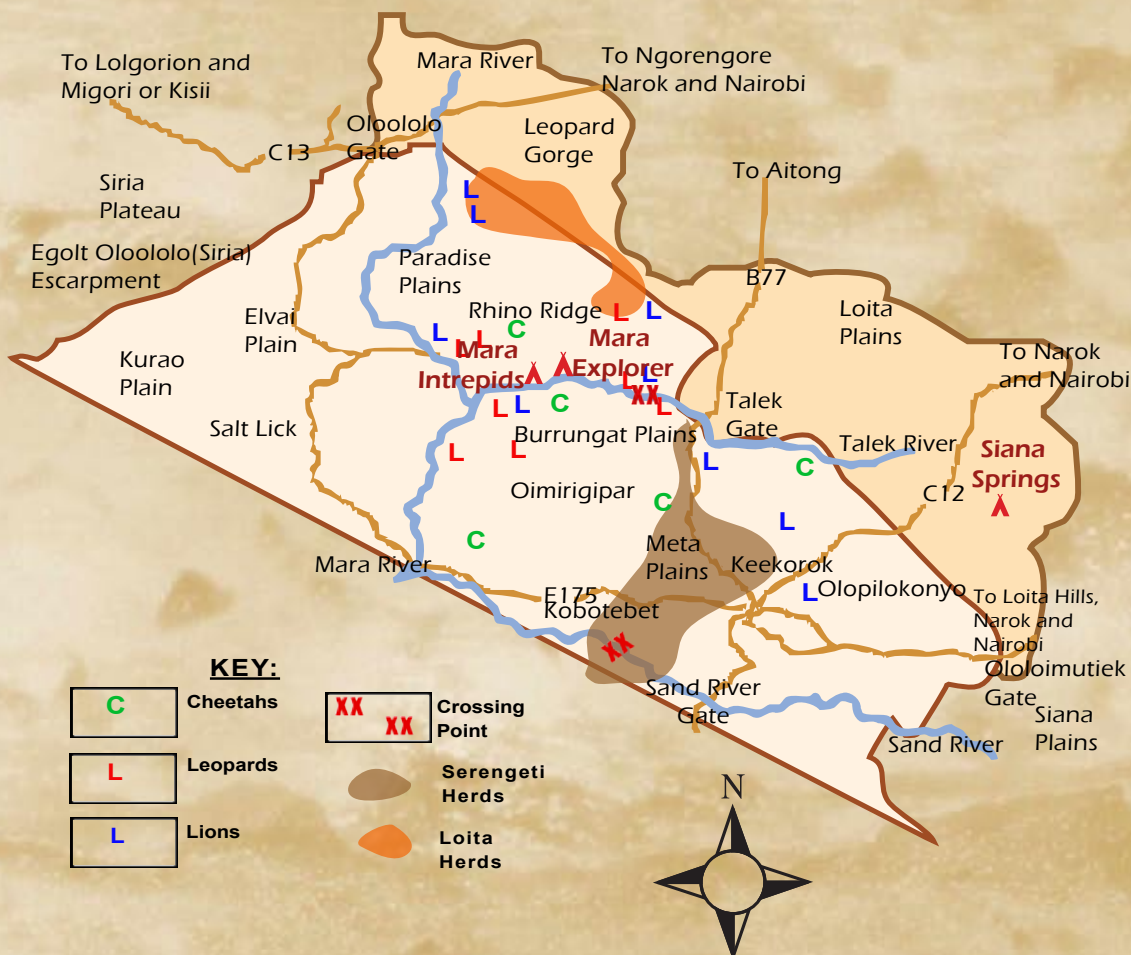
A herd of almost 30,000 wildebeest have crossed the border near Sand River gate. They were seen this morning taking their traditional route towards Roan Hill, while some have already moved all the way up towards Talek gate. The plains now between Mara Sarova, Roan Hill and Talek gate is teeming with the first herds that have moved into the area.

The Loita population came in about a week ago. A herd of about 4,000 zebras and wildebeest can be seen around Musiara gate in the north and others just south east of the Talek gate. We expect a build up in the coming weeks.

The northern Serengeti national park patrol personnel have reliably informed us that the



Picture courtesy of Xavier Ortega, Barcelona



migrating herds have taken two wings – one heading north from Grumeti area to the west, while an eastern wing is the one now moving into the Mara.

However, their movement is slower because of the amount of grass in their way. Since May, intermittent rains in the Mara has the plains grassed in long nutritious shoots, which is expected to slow the migration movement northwards. Looking onto the Serengeti from the sand river, one can see isolated herds of zebra and wildebeest reluctantly heading north. We anticipate this concentration to build as the herds push up north into the Mara.

The Mara predators in the areas where the herds are concentrated have suddenly woken up to the season of plenty again. The Marsh pride lions have now established themselves along Bila Shaka stream where the wildebeest are coming for a drink. Since the entry of the migrating herds into the area, these lions have always had something to eat, and we expect to start seeing more hunts for the big cats within our game viewing areas.

Look out for more updates and coverage of the Official Migration in the Masai Mara on www.heritage-eastafrica.com.

This is the first issue of the 2009 Wildebeest Migration. We shall be bringing other interesting sightings of all the other wildlife within our game viewing areas in the Mara Reserve, Samburu National Reserve, Tsavo West and Naivasha in the Rift Valley.



Watch out for our new website which will have a Guides Blog, Wildlife Updates, Migration and Big Cat sightings.

Paul Kirui. Chief Safari Guide

Kindly contact: safariguide@mara-intrepids.co.ke for comments or inquiry on the migration and other animal sightings in the Mara



Mara Explorer